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A True and Perfect

# NARRATIVE

Of the late Terrible and Bloody  
Murder of Sr. *Edmundberry Godfrey*;

Who was found Murdered on *Thursday* the  
17th. of this Instant *October*, in a Field  
near *Primrose-Hill*.

WITH

A full Account of the manner of his  
being Murdered, and in what manner he  
was Found.

A L S O,

The full Proceedings of the Coroner, who sat  
upon the Inquest, &c.

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With Allowance,

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Printed by N. T. 1678.

A True and Perfect

# NARRATIVE

Of the late Terrible and Bloody

Massacre of St. Edmundsbury Godfrey;

Who was found Murdered on Thursday the  
7th. of this Instant, 1702, in a Field

WITH

A full Account of the manner of his

being Murdered, and the manner he  
was found

A. D. 1702

By John Trenchard, of the County of Middlesex, who has  
upon the facts, &c.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the



*A True and Perfect Relation of that  
Horrid and Bloody Murder Com-  
mitted upon the Body of Sr. Ed-  
mondberry Godfrey.*

**S**IR *Edmondberry Godfrey's* Death being the Oc-  
casion of this Narrative, and the Subject of  
most Peoples Discourse; I shall suppress any  
false or Sirreptitious Stories that are usually car-  
ried abroad about things of this Nature; give  
the Reader the true and Impartial account thereof.

On the 12th of this instant *October* being Saturday  
about Nine of the Clock in the Morning, *Sr. Edmond-  
berry Godfrey* went out of his own House in *White-Church-Lane*  
in the *City* about his Occasions: And in the Evening  
after near *Marston*, but then supposed to be going  
home; and was at one of the Church-Wardens of the  
Parish of *St. Martins in the Fields* about *Samuel Bullen*  
at Twelve of the Clock the same day: But so it was that  
he came not to his own House that night, according to  
his usual Custom; nor gave any notice to his Servants of  
any

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any business that he had to hinder his returning that night. And from that time till Thursday the 17th. of the same Month, about Six a Clock at Night, no Findings could be heard of him (although all earnest and diligent Inquiries and Searches were made for him) till that time his Dead body was found dead in a Ditch upon the South-side of Primrose-hill, near Fampstead. The occasion of his being dead was that one Brownley a Baker, and Waters a Carrier, both of the Parish of St. Giles in the field near the house near Primrose-hill, and going over the field where the body of Sr. Edmond Berry lay, saw, as they thought, a sword and Belt, and a Stick and a Pair of Gloves lying together hard by the Hedge side, but they went not near to make any thing of it, but they had belonged to some person that was gone into the Ditch to save himself, and when they came to the house, they told John Ranson (the man of the said house) that they had seen a sword and Belt, and a pair of Gloves and Stick, lying in that place, whereupon John Ranson asked them, why they did not bring them thither. They told him they did not know but there might be some body hard by to own them. Ranson told them again, That there had been several Soldiers there about this week a while ago, hunting and it may be that some of them may have left them behind them. Ranson then went to one of the Church Wardens and was as one of the Church Wardens of St. Giles in the field near the house near Primrose-hill, and he agreed to go with the two men to the place, and if they found the things there, then to give them a Shilling and to give him notice of it.

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to Drink, and was to take the things to his own House, till some body came thither to own them; and there-upon they went together to the place: When they came there, they found only a Belt and a Scabbard, and a Stick, and a Pair of Gloves, but no Sword: which as *Rawson* was stooping to take up, he thought he saw some thing like a Man in the Ditch hard by, and so going to the Ditch, there they saw a Man lying, as they supposed upon his Belly, with a Sword run thorow him, and the Point appearing about Seven or Eight Inches above his Back: Upon this, they went immediately to the Church-Warden of the Parish, to give him an account of it; but he being Sick, sent to Mr. *Brown*, the Constable, who presently with him several Neighbours and House-keepers, went to the place where the Body lay: Which was in a dry Ditch upon the South-side of *Primrose-hill*, about Two Fields distant from the *White-house*: The Posture in which he lay was this, he had a Sword run into him just under his Left Pap, which came out upon the Right side of his Back, about Seven or Eight Inches; one of his Hands being doubled under, on which he seemed to Lean, the other Hand lying upon the Bank, his Hair, Chamber Coat being turn'd up over his Head; his Hat and Perriwig being among the Bushes over his Head, but no Band nor Cravat could be found about him; although when he went from Home, he had a large Lac'd Band on.

The Constable and the rest that were with him, being about a dozen, having taken good notice of the manner of his lying, caused him to be removed, the Sword



Sword drawn out of his Body; concerning which Sword it is observable, that the point of it which came out at his back was covered all over with blood, and that part which was in his Body was black, without any blood upon it.

The Constable having caus'd the Body to be removed to the *White Horse*, and knowing it to be the Body of Sir *Edmondberry Godfrey*, he caus'd his Pockets to be searched, and found in one of them in one paper six Guineys, and in another paper four broad pieces of Gold, and a half Crown; and in the other Pocket two Rings, whereof one was a Diamond, one Guiney, and four pound in Silver, and two small pieces of Gold, and one Ring he had upon one of his fingers: His Pocket Book (in which he used to take notes of Examinations) being only missing.

On *Friday* the 18th of this instant, Mr. *Cooper* the Coronor of *Middlesex*, impanel'd a Jury at the *White-Horse* to inquire about the occasion of the death of the said Sir *Edmondberry*: and two Chyrurgions, (having been first Sworn) viewed the Body in the presence of the Coronor and the Jury; and found two wounds about it, which one of the Chyrurgions searched with his Probe, and found one of them not above an inch deep, the Probe going against one of his Ribs; but the other being a little below the left Pap, went quite thorow the Body: his face was of a fresh colour, though in his life time very pale, somewhat swell'd, and a green circle about his Neck, as if he had been strangled, his blood being settled about his Neck, Throat, and the upper part of his

his Breast: The Chyrurgions having viewed the Body, delivered their Judgments, That the wounds they found about him, were not the cause of his death, but that he was suffocated before the wounds were made And that which may fully perswade any person of the truth thereof, is, That there was not one drop of blood to be found in the place where he lay, nor the least appearance of any such thing: though the Dirt was dry, and it might have been easily seen, if there had been any. Another thing was, That the very bottom of the soles of his Shoes were as clean as if he had but just come out of his own Chamber: which was an evident sign, that he was carried thither.

A third thing very remarkable is, That one of the Jury affirmed, That a Servant of his Mothers, (who is owner of the ground where the Body lay) with a Butcher and two Boys, made a very strict and narrow search in all parts of that ground for a Calf that was missing, upon *Monday* and *Tuesday* last, and at that time there lay no dead Body, Belt, Gloves, Stick, or other things there.

Now because several false Reports have gone abroad, tending to the Dishonour of this worthy Deceased Knight, as though he had been discontented about some Moneys owing by him to the Parish, and upon that account should make himself away; The Relator thinks good to testifie to the world, That to his own knowledge Sir *Edmond* *berry* lent the Parish above 300*l.* without Interest, a good part of which is yet unpaid, so palpable

pable an untruth it is, that some wicked persons have spread abroad about him. But it is no wonder that those inhumane Wretches that have taken away his life, should go also about to blast his Reputation.

One thing more I cannot omit to mention having received it from the mouth of one of the late Church-Wardens of the Parish where he lived, which is, That Sir *Pauleberry* not long ago gave him an hundred pound to bestow upon such poor People in the Parish as he knew were in want: Neither was that the first time that Sir *Pauleberry* had employed him in works of that nature, having often made him the distributor of his Charity, because he did not desire the applause of men for it. This without all doubt proceeded from so remarkable and so sincere a piety, That though it may be commended, I am afraid it will scarce be imitated.

**F I N I S.**